

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00231 091638Z

71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01 AS-01 /052 W

----- 035020

R 091439Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9681
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 0231

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IS LE SY

SUBJECT:ISRAELI PRESS ON KHADDAM WARNING AGAINST PARTITION OF LEBANON

1. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM'S STATEMENT THAT SYRIA MAY CONSIDER INVADING LEBANON IF THAT COUNTRY IS PARTITIONED HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A NUMBER OF EDITORIALS JAN 8 AND 9. CONSENSUS IS THAT FOR THE PRESENT THIS CONSTITUTES ONLY A VERBAL THREAT, BUT THAT ISRAEL CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO ITS IMPLICATIONS AND MUST BE PREPARED FOR ALL EVENTUALITIES.

2. JERUSALEM POST WROTE JAN 8: "CLEARLY KHADDAM'S WARNING WAS DESIGNED TO DAMPEN THIS GROWING FEELING AMONG LEBANON'S CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THAT THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP LEBANON INTACT IN A WORKABLE WAY IS THROUGH PARTITION. BUT THAT IS SYRIA'S TACTICAL POSITION. ITS REAL GOAL IS... TO PROMOTE THE EMERGENCE OF A LEBANON CONTROLLED BY THE LEFTIST-MOSLEM GROUPS... SUCH A MOSLEM STATED COULD THEN BE MORE EASILY INTEGRATED INTO THE 'GREATER SYRIA' WHICH DAMASCUS IS INTENT ON CREATING... WHETHER KHADDAM'S WARNING CAN, AT THIS STAGE, HAVE A DECISIVE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00231 091638Z

EFFECT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON REMAINS TO BE SEEN...

HOWEVER, HIS STATEMENTS HAVE SERVED TO BARE SYRIA'S INTENTIONS AND THE DANGEROUS POTENTIAL FOR FAR-REACHING CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL TOPOGRAPHY OF THE AREA INHERENT IN LEBANON'S CONTINUING CIVIL STRIFE."

3. HAARETZ JAN 9 FEELS THT "ADMITTEDLY, KHADAM'S STATEMENT THAT SYRIA WILL INVADE LEBANON...CANNOT BE SHRUGGED OFF. AT THE SAME TIME, IT SEEMS THAT SUCH A STEP WILL NOT BE TAKEN AS LIGHTLY AS IT WAS ANNOUNCED BY KHADDAM. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT KHADDAM'S WORDS ON THE SUBJECT WERE MAINLY DESIGNED TO DETER THE CHRISTIAN MILITANTS IN LEBANON AND TO THREATEN THEM."

4. DAVAR HOLDS THAT "...THE WARNING BY DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES, THAT ANY SYRIAN INTERFERENCE IN LEBANON, WHATEVER ITS MOTIVES, CANNOT LEAVE ISRAEL INDIFFERENT, WAS TIMELY. THE MINISTER WORDED HIS WARNING WITH RESTRAINT BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY THAT STILL PREVAILS AS TO DAMASCUS' INTENTIONS REGARDING TRANSLATING KHADDAM'S THREAT INTO THE LANGUAGE OF DEEDS. BUT DAMASCUS MUST KNOW THAT ISRAEL IS NOW FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD...MORE INTENTLY THAN EVER AND INDEED REGARDS ITSELF DUTY-BOUND--AS THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE PUT IT-- 'TO CONSIDER ITS STEPS FOR A POSSIBLE REACTION' TO A FATEFUL SYRIAN MOVE, IF IT IS TAKEN."

5. HATZOFEH NOTES THAT: "ISRAEL HAS WARNED SEVERAL TIMES AGAINST SYRIAN PENETRATION INTO LEBANON, WHICH WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO A THREAT TO ITS SECURITY FROM NEW BORDERS. ONE MAY TAKE IT THAT BOTH THE US AND THE USSR ARE AWARE OF THE RISK THAT WAR WILL BREAK OUT IN THE MIDDLE EAST IF SYRIA SENDS AN INVASION FORCE INTO LEBANON... ISRAELI ALERTNESS, PARTICULARLY WITH THE CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON BECOMING INCREASINGLY ACUTE, IS ESSENTIAL."

6. REACTING TO THE STATEMENT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING INTERVENTION BY SYRIA OR ISRAEL IS AL HAMISHMAR, WHICH WRITES: "ONE MAY DOUBT WHETHER THE SYRIANS WILL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00231 091638Z

INDEED MAKE GOOD ON THEIR THREATS, WHICH MAY BE ONLY STATEMENTS OF OPPOSITION TO A PARTITION OF LEBANON, BUT THERE IS NO WAY TO KNOW... IT IS THEREFORE NATURAL FOR ISRAEL TO FOLLOW EVENTS IN LEBANON CLOSELY, AND JUST AS NATURAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE CONSULTATIONS ON THE SUBJECT. AT THE SAME TIME, ONE CANNOT BUT EXPRESS ASTONISHMENT AT THE STATEMENT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, WHO HAS SEEN FIT TO WARN BOTH SYRIA AND ISRAEL... IT

WOULD SEEM THAT ISRAEL, EVEN IF IT CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT
TO EVENTS IN LEBANON, ACTS WITH GREAT RESTRAINT, AND
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF THE WARNING HAD BEEN
ADDRESSED ONLY TO ONE SIDE, SYRIA."
DUNNIGAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INVASIONS, PARTITION, THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV00231
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760008-1084
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760169/aaaacjyt.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SRAELI PRESS ON KHADDAM WARNING AGAINST PARTITION OF LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE, SY, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006